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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/682,533	10/10/2003	Yuki Kanno	086142-0587	9724

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EXAMINER

TO, TOAN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3616

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/682,533

Applicant(s)

KANNO ET AL.

Examiner

Toan C. To

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10-10-2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-15, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Desprez (U.S. 6,595,543).

Desprez discloses a cover for an airbag module comprising: a plate member (4) having a top surface to be exposed to a vehicle cabin; and a frame member (6) extending from a back surface of the plate member (4); wherein the plate member (4) and the frame member (6) are configured to be formed separately and joined after formation; wherein the frame (6) member includes an opening (14); and wherein the plate member (4) covers the opening (14).

As to claim 2, Desprez discloses a cover for an airbag module, wherein the (plate member is formed of thermoplastic elastomer (see column 2, line 62).

As to claim 3, Desprez discloses a cover for an airbag module, wherein the frame member (6) is formed of thermoplastic synthetic resin (see column 3, lines 7-11).

As to claims 4-10, Desprez discloses a cover for an airbag module, wherein the frame member (6) includes a base portion (22), an extension member (24); wherein the

Art Unit: 3616

base portion (22) is joined with the back surface of the plate member (4); a vibration welded bond (36, see column 3, line 67) between the base portion (22) and the plate member (4).

As to claims 11-12, Desprez discloses a cover for an airbag module, wherein the extension member (24) extends in a direction away from the back surface of the plate member (4); wherein the base portion (22) extends from the extension member (24) in a direction away from a center portion of the plate member (4) and in a direction toward an edge portion of the plate member (4).

As to claims 13-15, Desprez discloses a cover for an airbag module, wherein the plate member (4) includes a projection (20) formed on the back surface; wherein the base portion (22) includes an aperture (34); and wherein the aperture (34) is configured to accept the projection (20); wherein the projection (20) is received in the aperture (34); wherein an engagement between the projection (20) and the aperture (34) is undetachable.

As to claim 20, Desprez discloses a cover for an airbag module comprising: a plate member (4); and a frame member (6) extending from a back surface of the plate member (4); wherein the plate member (4) and the frame member (6) are configured to be formed separately and joined after formation; and wherein the plate member (4) is formed of thermoplastic elastomer (see column 2, lines 60-65).

As to claim 21, Desprez discloses a cover for an airbag module comprising: a plate member (4) having a top surface to be exposed to a vehicle cabin; a frame member (6) connected to a back surface of the plate member (4); wherein the frame

Art Unit: 3616

member (6) is not integral with the plate member (4) and includes an opening (14) for the airbag (9) so that when deploying, the airbag does not deform the frame member (6).

As to claim 22, Desprez discloses an airbag module for protecting an occupant of a vehicle comprising: an airbag (9); and a cover having a plate member (4) and a frame member (6); wherein the plate (4) member has a top surface to be exposed to a vehicle cabin and wherein the frame member (6) extends from a back surface of the plate member (4); wherein the plate member (4) and the frame member (6) are configured to be formed separately and joined after formation; wherein the frame member (6) includes an opening (14); and wherein the plate member (4) covers the opening (14).

3. Claims 1, 6-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al (U.S. 6,601,870).

As to claims 1, and 6-12, Suzuki et al discloses a cover for an airbag module comprising: a plate member (12) having a top surface to be exposed to a vehicle cabin; and a frame member (26) extending from a back surface of the plate member (12); wherein the plate member (12) and the frame member (26) are configured to be formed separately and joined after formation; wherein the frame (26) member includes an opening; and wherein the plate member (12) covers the opening; wherein the frame member (26) includes a base portion (29), and an extension member (28); the extension member (28) extends in a direction away from the back surface of the plate member (26); the base portion (29) extends from the extension member in a direction

Art Unit: 3616

away from the center portion of the plate member and in a direction toward an edge of the plate member.

As to claims 13-17, Suzuki et al discloses a cover for an airbag module, wherein the plate member (12) includes a projection (17) formed on the back surface; wherein the base portion (29) includes an aperture (35); and wherein the aperture (35) is configured to accept the projection (17); wherein the projection (17) is received in the aperture (35); wherein an engagement between the projection (17) and the aperture (35) is undetachable; wherein an end of the projection (17) includes a keeper member, wherein the keeper member is configured to enlarge (see figures 5A-5B) an end of the projection so that the projection remains engaged with the aperture (35); wherein the keeper member comprises caulking (see column 7, line 67).

4. Claims 1, 6, 13-14, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hagen et al (U.S. 5,651,562).

As to claims 1, and 6, Hagen et al discloses a cover for an airbag module comprising: a plate member (62) having a top surface to be exposed to a vehicle cabin; and a frame member (20) extending from a back surface of the plate member (62); wherein the plate member (62) and the frame member (20) are configured to be formed separately and joined after formation; wherein the frame (20) member includes an opening (52); and wherein the plate member (62) covers the opening; wherein the frame member (20) includes a base portion (28), the base portion (28).

As to claims 13-14 and 18-19, Hagen et al discloses a cover for an airbag module, wherein the plate member (62) includes a projection (150) formed on the back

Art Unit: 3616

surface; wherein the base portion (28) includes an aperture (30); and wherein the aperture (30) is configured to accept the projection (150); wherein the projection (150) is received in the aperture (30); a retaining member (176), wherein the retaining member is attached to an end of the projection (150) so that the projection remains engaged with the opening; wherein the retaining member comprises a clip (176)


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan C. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6677. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TTo
November 12, 2005

 11/21/05
PAUL N. DICKSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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